

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EA-07 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04 SIL-01 AF-06

NEA-10 OIC-02 AID-05 OMB-01 /119 W

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R 072030Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6625

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

QMQMBASSY MADRID 4278

AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PARIS 0484

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLAB, ILO, FR

SUBJECT: LABOR MINISTER'S VIEWS ON U.S. NOTICE TO
ILO

1. SUMMARY: IN DISCUSSION WITH LABATT LABOR MINISTER
DURAFOUR WAS REASSURED REGARDING U.S. INTENTIONS
TOWARDS ILO, AGREED ON NEED FOR INDUSTRIALIZED
COUNTRIES TO PROTECT ILO'S TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE,
SUGGESTED THAT LDC'S MIGHT BE PART OF ILO'S TROUBLES,
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WONDERED WHETHER A DISTINCTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN

PRIVATE EMPLOYERS AND MANAGERS OF NATIONALIZED SECTOR AS ALLEGEDLY IS DONE IN BRUSSELS, AND THOUGHT THAT PROJECTED OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING MAY BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR INFORMAL COORDINATION ON ILO MATTERS. END SUMMARY.

2. LABOR MINISTER DURAFOR ASKED TO SEE THE LABOR ATTACHE ON 6 JANUARY AND PREDICTABLY THE SUBJECT HE WANTED TO TALK ABOUT WAS ILO. HE BEGAN BY ASKING WHETHER THE U.S. NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL REFLECTED A U.S. DECISION TO WITHDRAW INDEED. LABATT EXPLAINED THAT THE LETTER IS EXPLICIT IN THIS REGARD. IT STATES THAT THE U.S. NEITHER DESIRES NOR EXPECTS TO LEAVE THE ILO BUT IS NEVERTHELESS PREPARED TO DO SO IF CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE NOT FULFILLED.

3. DURAFOR BELIEVED THAT WHAT THE U.S. HAD IN MIND WAS MAJOR REFORM OF THE ILO. LABATT CORRECTED HIM WITH DUE EMPHASIS BY EXPLAINING THAT ON THE CONTRARY WHAT THE U.S. IS URGING IS FULL RESPECT OF THE LETTER AND SPIRIT OF THE ILO CONSTITUTION AND PRINCIPLES. PUT IN ITS SIMPLEST TERMS, WHAT THE U.S. HAD INTENDED BY ITS NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL WAS TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE URGENT NEED TO PROTECT THIS TRIPARTITE STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONING OF THE ILO AND THE NON-POLITICAL NATURE OF ITS OBJECTIVES AND PROCEDURES.

4. DURAFOR FELT REASSURED BY THIS CLARIFICATION. HE SAID THAT THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES NEED TO REFLECT SERIOUSLY ON WHAT HAS BEEN HAPPENING IN ILO IN THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS AND CITED AS AN ILLUSTRATION OF HOW URGENT THIS NEED HAS BECOME THE FACT THAT WITHIN MINUTES FROM HIS MEETING WITH HIM LAST JUNE, THE USSR DELEGATION TO THE ILO CONFERENCE BEGAN TO PRESSURE HIM WITH THE PROPOSITION THAT A USSR EMPLOYER DELEGATE SHOULD BE GIVEN A PLACE ON THE EMPLOYERS GROUP.

5. LABATT USED THIS OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS THAT
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REAFFIRMATION AND RESPECT OF THE AUTONOMY OF ILO'S THREE CONSTITUENT GROUPS (GOVERNMENT, EMPLOYER AND WORKER) AS GUARANTEED IN THE ILO CONSTITUTIONS WAS A MATTER FOR PRIORITY ACTION BY THE DEMOCRATIC WORLD.

6. DURAFOR TURNED ATTENTION TO THE THIRD WORLD BY RAISING THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE LDC DEMANDS IN TERMS OF REPRESENTATION ON THE GOVERNING BODY

AND ON THE ILO STAFF DID NOT PRESENT AN EQUALLY SERIOUS PROBLEM AS THAT PRESENTED BY THE EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. NOTING THAT THIS WAS A VIEW WHICH ALEXANDRE PARODI (UNTIL LAST FALL GOF DELEGATE TO THE ILO) HAD ESPOUSED FOR A LONG TIME, LABATT ATTEMPTED TO REBUKE IT. HE SUGGESTED THAT IN THE MAJORITY OF LDC'S THE LABOR MOVEMENT IS UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL NOT AS A MATTER OF PRINCIPLE AS IN THE SO-CALLED SOCIALIST COUNTRIES BUT RATHER AS A TEMPORARY EXPEDIENT. THIS PRACTICE, OBJECTIONABLE AS IT MIGHT BE, DOES NOT POSE A QUESTION OF PRINCIPLE AS DOES SIMILAR AND FAR MORE THOROUGH EE PRACTICE.

7. REFERRING TO THE SITUATION REGARDING THE EMPLOYERS GROUP, DURAFOR WONDERED WHETHER THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY EXPERIENCE COULD BE USEFUL IN THIS CONNECTION SINCE IN BRUSSELS THERE IS A DISTINCTION BEING MADE BETWEEN PRIVATE EMPLOYERS AND MANAGERS OF THE NATIONALIZED SECTOR. HE RECOGNIZED THAT IF THIS APPROACH WERE TO BE TAKEN IN THE ILO IT WOULD BECOME THE SUBJECT OF MAJOR NEGOTIATION SEEKING TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF A GROUP OF NATIONALIZED EMPLOYERS IN A STRUCTURE LIKE THE ILO.

8. LABATT CAUTIONED DURAFOR THAT THIS MAY BE A RISKY APPROACH BECAUSE IT WILL PROVIDE THE TYPE OF OPENING THE EE COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN DRIVING FOR IN ORDER TO UNDERMINE THE INTEGRITY OF ILO'S TRIPARTITE SYSTEM.

9. THE MINISTER, WHO GREW MORE REFLECTIVE AS CONVERSATION PROGRESSED, CONCLUDED WITH THE STATEMENT THAT THE ILO SITUATION AS CRYSTALLIZED BY THE U.S. CONFIDENTIAL

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LETTER OF 6 NOV 1975 REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL OF THOUGHT AND COORDINATION AMONG THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES. HE WONDERED WHETHER THE PROJECTED OECD MINISTERIAL MEETING MIGHT PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SUCH INFORMAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS, BUT ADDED THAT THIS CAN VERY WELL TAKE PLACE IN ANY OTHER CITY "EXCEPT, OF COURSE, GENEVA."

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10. AT ONE POINT DURAFOR ELOQUENTLY STRESSED THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES IN ALLOWING THEMSELVES TO BE REPRESENTED IN THE ILO BODIES BY DELEGATES WHO DID NOT HAVE THE COMPETENCE, PERSONAL AUTHORITY OR EVEN THE WILL TO ENGAGE IN THE TYPE OF LOBBYING AND SPEECH-MAKING THAT THE ILO REQUIRES. HE WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT IF THE WESTERN WORLD WERE BETTER REPRESENTED AT LAST JUNE'S ILO CONFERENCE, THE PLO RESOLUTION MIGHT NOT HAVE RECEIVED SUCH A LARGE MAJORITY SUPPORT. HE WAS
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PARTICULARLY EMPHATIC ON THE NEED FOR ASSIDUOUS PRESENCE IN ILO BODIES AND CORRIDORS BY HIGHLY

QUALIFIED WESTERN DELEGATES.

11. COMMENT: THE DISCUSSION WITH THE MINISTER WAS OBVIOUSLY USEFUL. IN ADDITION TO THE POINTS MADE ABOVE, THE CONVERSATION MAY HAVE HELPED TO PUT IN BETTER PERSPECTIVE THE REAL SOURCE OF CHALLENGE TO THE ILO STRUCTURE AND THEREBY ATTENUATE PARODI'S INFLUENCE SINCE FOR MANY YEARS HE SAW THE ASSAULT COMING FROM THE SOUTH RATHER THAN FROM THE EAST.

12. WE ARE INTRIGUED BY DURAFOR'S IMPLIED CRITICISM OF PARODI IN PARA 10 ABOVE. THIS OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT CONCERN PARODI'S COMPETENCE AND PERSONAL AUTHORITY BUT RATHER HIS WILL TO STAND UP AND FIGHT AGAINST THOSE FROM THE SOUTH OR THE EAST WHO FOR ONE REASON OR ANOTHER PRESENTED A THREAT TO ILO'S INTEGRITY. EVEN PARODI'S ARDENT ADMIRERS WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO TAKE ISSUE WITH DURAFOR ON THIS SCORE.

13. WHAT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, IS THAT DURAFOR HIMSELF AND UNDOUBTEDLY OTHER FRENCH OFFICIALS AS WELL ARE TAKING THE U.S. LETTER TO THE ILO WITH THE SERIOUSNESS IT HAD HOPED TO INSPIRE.
RUSH

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